

Sec 4-01.2 Ed. Op.

*Pers. Fulbright, J. Wm.
Pers. Russell, Richard B.*

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NORFOLK, VIRGINIA
LEDGER-STAR
E. 102,250

JAN 19 1967

More Senate eyes on the CIA

Six months ago the U.S. Senate voted down an effort to bring members of its Foreign Relations Committee into the group that oversees activities of the Central Intelligence Agency. A subcommittee—the "Secret Seven"—of the Appropriations and Armed Forces committees had that supervisory task, and Chairman J. William Fulbright of Foreign Relations sought vainly to crack its front.

Mr. Fulbright now has won in practice what he was denied in principle. In a little-noted action earlier this month, Senator Richard Russell, chairman of the "Secret Seven," announced that it had invited three members of Foreign Relations to take part directly in CIA supervision this year. The three are Senator Fulbright, Majority Leader Mike Mansfield, and Republican Senator Bourke Hickenlooper.

Mr. Russell was among those who opposed Mr. Fulbright last summer, arguing among other things that putting Foreign Relations members on the watchdog committee would make security risks more likely. It is unfor-

tunate that this, like much of the other argument against Mr. Fulbright's effort then, was pitched on a rather personal level.

For the point is not whether Senator Fulbright himself, or Mr. Mansfield or Mr. Hickenlooper, ought to be on the CIA oversight subcommittee.

The point, as Senator Fulbright stressed, is that the CIA "greatly influences foreign policy," both by gathering information abroad and at times in trying to guide the course of events there along the way that the U.S. presumably would favor. The CIA is, then, an arm of U.S. foreign policy; and by the Constitution the Senate is a subordinate partner of the President in forming that policy and its Foreign Relations Committee a deputy.

So Senate supervision of CIA activities ought always to include Foreign Relations Committee representation, regardless of who its chairman may be. It is good that Senator Russell has, at least for 1967, put that principle into action. This kind of arrangement ought to be made a lasting one.